

**For Immediate Release**

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**PRESIDENT OBIANG TO PARTICIPATE IN G20 SUMMIT**

**MALABO** (February 17, 2011) – The President of Equatorial Guinea, Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, will participate in the G20 summit that will take place in the Mediterranean city of Cannes in November.

President Obiang, chosen unanimously as rotating President of the African Union (AU), at the 16th Ordinary Assembly celebrated in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, last month, will represent the 53 AU member states. During the summit, President Obiang urged his fellow Africans to take the lead in resolving the conflicts that have ravaged the continent. "Africa must focus on the dialogue for a peaceful negotiated solution to the conflicts that ravage our towns. Africa must assume, more than ever, a leading role not just on the continent but in the international arena."

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev praised President Obiang for his recent election as AU President, saying, "I expect that the increasing desire of the African community to take responsibility for their continent's destiny into their own hands, in cooperation with foreign partners, will contribute to strengthening the organization's role in regional processes and to a more balanced system of international relations."

The President of the Spanish Congress of Deputies, José Bono, during a recent visit to Equatorial Guinea, expressed support for President Obiang's objective to have the AU adopt Spanish as an official language. Equatorial Guinea is the continent's only Spanish-speaking country.

Other countries whose leaders will join President Obiang at the G20 summit include the United Arab Emirates, the presiding country of the Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf; Ethiopia, which presides over the Orientation Committee of the new Association for Africa's Development; and Singapore, which will represent the 27 countries of the Global Governance Group (3G).

***About Equatorial Guinea***

The Republic of Equatorial Guinea (República de Guinea Ecuatorial) is the only Spanish-speaking country in Africa, and one of the smallest nations on the continent. In the late-1990s, American companies helped discover the country's oil and natural gas resources, which only within the last five years began contributing to the global energy supply. Equatorial Guinea is now working to serve as a pillar of stability and security in its region of West Central Africa. The country will host the 2011 Summit of the African Union. For more information, visit <http://www.guineaequatorialpress.com>.

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**UN SECRETARY-GENERAL HAILS 'STATESMANSHIP' IN EFFORTS BY  
PRESIDENTS OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA AND GABON TO RESOLVE  
BOUNDARY DISPUTE**

**NEW YORK** (February 27, 2011) – United Nations Secretary-General praised President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo of Equatorial Guinea and his counterpart, Ali Bongo Ondimba of Gabon, for "statesmanship" in their efforts to resolve a long-standing territorial dispute.

President Obiang met on February 25 with President Bongo at the United Nations (UN) headquarters at the invitation of the Secretary-General. The UN began mediating the dispute in 2004.

The two presidents reaffirmed their commitment to submit the dispute to the International Court of Justice with the goal of reaching a settlement as soon as possible.

Secretary-General Ban reported to the Security Council that the attitude of the presidents was "an important demonstration of statesmanship, on both sides."

He declared that the two nations would "have the full support of the United Nations as they work together to find a solution."

The dispute between Equatorial Guinea and its neighbor centers around three islands in Corisco Bay, in an area of petroleum and natural gas deposits. The two countries have a long-standing commitment to resolve the matter amicably and to exploit the area's resources jointly until they reach a settlement.

In a joint communique issued following the meeting of the two leaders and Secretary-General Ban, the two countries agreed to meet again in Geneva on March 29-30 to resolve remaining issues.

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